

A1

- (a) a nucleotide sequence comprising the following nucleotides from gi 1297184:
nucleotides 11137-10900 followed by nucleotides 10506-10184 followed by 10090-9717; or
- (b) a complement of the nucleotide sequence of (a) or a fragment thereof.

Please amend the following claims as indicated.

A2

1. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence which encodes an amino acid sequence exhibiting at least 40% sequence identity to an amino acid encoded by

- (a) a nucleotide sequence comprising the following nucleotides from gi 1297184:
nucleotides 11137-10900 followed by nucleotides 10506-10184 followed by 10090-9717, or fragment thereof; or
- (b) a complement of the nucleotide sequence of (a) or a fragment thereof.

2. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence which exhibits at least 65% sequence identity to

- (a) a nucleotide sequence comprising the following nucleotides from gi 1297184:
nucleotides 11137-10900 followed by nucleotides 10506-10184 followed by 10090-9717, or fragment thereof; or
- (b) complement of the nucleotide sequence of (a) or a fragment thereof.

3. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence which exhibits at least 65% sequence identity to a gene comprising

- (a) a nucleotide sequence comprising the following nucleotides from gi 1297184:
nucleotides 11137-10900 followed by nucleotides 10506-10184 followed by 10090-9717, or fragment thereof; or
- (b) a complement of the nucleotide sequence of (a) or a fragment thereof.

A3

5. (Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid capable of hybridizing to a nucleic acid having a sequence selected from the group consisting of: